

CONGRATULATING ALMA BERLOT WHO WAS SELECTED AS "WOMAN OF THE YEAR" BY THE WYOMING VALLEY WOMAN'S CLUB

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Alma Berlot of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, who was chosen as Woman of the Year by the Wyoming Valley Woman's Club for the year 2006.

Mrs. Berlot is affectionately known as the coal miner's daughter because of the dedicated work she did to spearhead the drive to place a statue of a coal miner at the intersection of East Main Street and Kosciuszko Street in Nanticoke. Mrs. Berlot did that to immortalize the sacrifices made by her father and thousands of other mine workers who labored deep underground in often dangerous conditions to support their families and to invigorate the regional economy.

Mrs. Berlot is now working to get a postage stamp that will honor the coal miners for their courage and bravery.

Mrs. Berlot's father, Ed Salvatore, lost his life in the mines. Her mother, Elizabeth Tulli, was killed in a car crash by a drunken driver. In tribute to her parents, Mrs. Berlot subsequently organized a talented group of children and young adults who entertain at nursing homes, veteran's gatherings, etc. The group is called "Make Someone Happy."

Over the years, Mrs. Berlot has received many awards from two State hospitals for her work with the mentally challenged and also the Special Olympics.

Mrs. Berlot is married to Alvin Berlot and the couple has four children: Dr. Alvin Berlot, Attorney Melissa McCafferty, Gina Bunchalk, RNBSRN and Madonna Trombetta, RN.

The Wyoming Valley Woman's Club gives its "Woman of the Year" award annually to a worthy woman for her outstanding contributions to the Wyoming Valley. The selection committee is composed of past award winners including Doris J. Merrill, chairperson, Nanticoke; Anna Cervenak, Kingston; Rose Marie Panzitta, Wilkes-Barre; Judith Ellis, College Misericordia; Rose Mary Sigmund, Luzerne; Martha Elko, Kingston and Ann MacFarland, president, Wilkes-Barre.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mrs. Berlot on the occasion of this outstanding achievement. Mrs. Berlot's devotion to community service is well known and it is fitting that she should receive this award.

COMMENDING NETTIE PAULSON

### HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Ms. Nettie Paulson of New Ulm, Minnesota, for her service to the Gillette Children's Hospital and her dedication to making the patients more comfortable as a member of the Friends of Gillette group.

The Friends of Gillette are volunteers devoted to the children being treated at the Gillette Children's Hospital and their families. The Friends of Gillette have raised more than \$2 million in medical assistance for families and they also donate items, such as knitted quilts and hats, to patients in an effort to bring comfort and warmth to the patient's hospital stay.

Ms. Nettie Paulson's dedication to the children and families of Gillette Children's Hospital has been felt for over 50 years. Through the Friends of Gillette program, Ms. Paulson has now donated 1,000 of her hand-made quilts to Gillette patients over the years. She has touched the lives and hearts of thousands of children and their families with her constant kindness.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Paulson is a great example of one who is willing to share her talents to help those in need. I commend Ms. Nettie Paulson for her decades of service to the children and families of Gillette Children's Hospital.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF  
HOSPITAL CORPSMAN THIRD  
CLASS VICTOR L. LEWIS OF THE  
UNITED STATES NAVY

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of United States Navy Hospital Corpsman Third Class Victor L. Lewis, Company L, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, Combat Team 2, Marines Expeditionary Forces, upon his recognition by the United States Navy with a Bronze Star Medal for his heroic actions while serving in Iraq on April 4, 2005.

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Victor L. Lewis is a firefighter in Cleveland, Ohio. His courage and conviction exceeded his excellent training and experience as a firefighter, when his platoon came under fire last year. During a mission in Haqlnayah, Iraq to locate an enemy weapons cache, Hospital Corpsman Third Class Victor L. Lewis and his platoon came under attack by a well-coordinated enemy ambush. The platoon was bombarded by heavy machinegun fire, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades. When a fellow Marine fell wounded, Corpsman Lewis ran forty meters through heavy gunfire, administered first aid and moved him to safety.

When a second Marine was wounded, Hospital Corpsman Third Class Victor L. Lewis ran to his aid, again through the smoke and blast of heavy gunfire, rendered first aid, then lifted him up and carried him to safety. His efforts to save the lives of others while placing his own life in grave danger reflects courage and heroism of the highest level.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and gratitude to Hospital Corpsman Third Class Victor L. Lewis, whose bravery and unwavering devotion to the members of his platoon will forever stand as a testament to the spirit and strength of the human heart to face down fear and run through the fires of war to save the lives of his friends. Our community and our Nation will be forever grateful.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER K. WILLIAMS FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher K. Williams, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 288, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his Troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher K. Williams for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

STOP THE GENOCIDE IN THE  
DARFUR REGION OF SUDAN

### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, this past Sunday, April 30, 2006, hundreds of thousands of Americans gathered in cities across the U.S. to rally to stop the murder, end the suffering and call for action to stop the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan.

As many as 400,000 children, men and women have been murdered in Darfur by the Janjaweed militia with direct support from the Government of Sudan. More than 2 million people have been displaced both inside Sudan as well as into the neighboring nation of Chad. Villages have been burned, rape and sexual violence has been used as a terrorist weapon against women and girls. The terror, horror, and evil perpetrated in Darfur is an ulcer on humanity that must be treated immediately. If not, the terrorist tactics used by the Janjaweed and their state sponsors will be a model for rogue nations and their non-state allies in every corner of the world. Ending the genocide in Darfur, providing on-going humanitarian assistance and protection to the victims, and bringing the perpetrators—both the Janjaweed terrorists and their government sponsors—to justice requires the U.S. and the world to act. Action is what citizens across our country are calling for.

I attended the rally in St. Paul, MN and I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of the organizations that worked hard to sponsor the rally and raise awareness regarding an international issue that speaks to our very humanity. It was a rainy day but those in attendance had warm hearts and their presence was a reflection of the fact that we are a free people—free from the fear, the misery and the horror facing our brothers and sisters in Sudan and Chad. Their calls to ensure that Congress, the White House and the world are held accountable for allowing the killing in Darfur to